

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PHNOM 01913 081004Z

21

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 PM-01 INR-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /005 W

----- 100947

O R 080850Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4888

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 1913

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. IN HEAVY FIGHTING THURSDAY ON SEVERAL FRONTS AROUND PHNOM PENH, GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED TO PRESS THEIR CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE OUTER DEFENSES OF THE CITY. U.S. MILITARY OBSERVERS CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATE THAT MAJOR FANK OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS NORTHWEST OF THE CITY SINCE EARLY JANUARY HAVE RESULTED IN OVER FIVE HUNDRED COMMUNIST DEAD AND MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED WEAPONS CAPTURED. (PHOTO OF CAPTURED WEAPONS BEING POUCHED.)

2. GOVERNMENT TROOPS WITH CLOSE-IN KHMER AIR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT MADE SIGNIFICANT GAINS YESTERDAY IN HEAVY FIGHTING AGAINST COMMUNIST ELEMENTS LOCATED EIGHT KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH ON THE EAST BANK OF THE TONLE-BASSAC RIVER. BODIES OF THIRTY-THREE COMMUNIST

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PHNOM 01913 081004Z

SOLDIERS WERE FOUND DURING THE FIGHTING. SUCCESSFUL

FANK EFFORTS TO CLEAR COMMUNIST FORCES FROM THIS AREA DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PERMITTED AN ESTIMATED ONE THOUSAND PERSONS TO ESCAPE COMMUNIST CONTROL AND RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES. MANY OF THEIR HOMES HAD BEEN BURNED AT THE TIME OF THEIR CAPTURE.

3. AT PEAN RAINING, APPROXIMATELY FORTY KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH ON THE MEKONG RIVER, KHMER NAVY INFANTRY UNITS REPULSED A COMMUNIST GROUND ATTACK, KILLING FIVE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WHILE SUSTAINING ONLY LIGHT LOSSES. THE ACTION WAS PART OF KHMER NAVY AND AIR FORCE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY FOR CONVOYS BRINGING SUPPLIES TO PHNOM PENH.

4. GOVERNMENT TROOPS CAPTURED TWO COMMUNIST SOLDIERS THURSDAY WHOSE TROOPS COMMANDERS HAD CHAINED THEM TO A TREE TO PREVENT THEM FROM FLEEING THEIR MACHINE GUN POSITION AS FANK UNITS MOVED IN. THE INCIDENT WAS UNCOVERED AS GOVERNMENT FORCES WERE CLEARING COMMUNIST ELEMENTS NORTH OF THE PREK THNAOT RIVER APPROXIMATELY SEVENTEEN KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. TWENTY-FIVE COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND THIRTY-ONE WEAPONS CAPTURED IN HEAVY FIGHTING. FANK LOSSES WERE DESCRIBED AS MODERATEBM

TM ELSWHERE IN THE REPUBLIC, ROUTE 4 REMAINS CLOSED FOLLOWING SEVERAL DAYS OF HEAVY FIGHTING TWENTY KILOMETERS WEST OF KOMPONG SPEU. AT KOMPONG CHAM, THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN COMMUNIST ATTACKS-BY-FIRE AND ON THE GROUND. FANK LOSSES DURING THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS ARE REPORTED AS LIGHT.

6. COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUE THEIR PRESSURE AGAINST THE FANK OUTPOST AT BAMNAK TWENTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF PURSAT. TWENTY COMMUNIST SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN THESE ATTACKS. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN THIS ONGOING ACTION HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS HEAVY OVER THE PAST WEEK.
ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFILTRATION, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM01913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740245/aaaabqju.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 FEB 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, CB
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005